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rayon yarn and cloth, two in Damascus and four in Aleppo, employing nearly 6,000 workers. Between 90,000 and 100,000 spindles producing cotton and rayon yarn and about 1,400 mechanical looms are in operation in these factories or were in the process of being installed at the time of the mission's visit; it has been estimated that in 1953 between 15-20% of the total number of spindles was engaged in the spinning of rayon. The total yarn production in that year was about 8,000 tons, of which 6,000 was cotton yarn. The factories are well built and most of the machinery is less than 10 years old. The older or less efficient machinery is being replaced and there is a gradual conversion to fully automatic looms.

Syrian cotton has now largely replaced imported raw material; on the other hand, imports of fiber and yarn for making rayon cloth and knitted garments have increased considerably during the past two years. Imports of fiber rose from 1,300 tons in 1951 to nearly 3,000 in 1953. Imports of rayon yarn increased during the same period from 4,160 tons to 6,572 tons. Practically all the cotton yarn produced in Syria is used locally. About 400 tons of cotton cloth, 400 tons of rayon yarn and 1,800 tons of silk and artificial silk cloth were exported in 1953.

Three factories are engaged in the spinning (one in Aleppo with about 3,000 spindles) or weaving (two in Damascus with a total of 38 looms) of woolen yarns and woolen and worsted cloth. While some of the machinery is old, it is in good condition and the buildings are well constructed. In 1953 about 160 workers were employed in these factories. Although Syria exports considerable quantities of raw wool, its modern wool manufacturing industry is based entirely on imported materials.

Four small factories in Damascus produce silk and rayon brocades and brocades with metallic threads on mechanical looms. Brocades are also woven on an unknown number of hand looms.

In addition, there are probably over 700 smaller enterprises in various parts of the country (Aleppo, Damascus and Homs being the main centers) engaged in the manufacture of cotton, rayon or woolen cloth on mechanical looms. In total they have roughly 3,800 looms and about 9,000 workers are employed.

A large number of hand looms are still used for weaving cotton, rayon, woolen and hair cloth. Although declining in importance, there are probably still over 6,000 hand looms and about 10,000 workers engaged, part or whole time, in their operation.

The total production of woven silk, cotton and rayon cloth is probably